

Amendments to the Specification

*Please replace the paragraph on page 1, beginning line 17, with the following amended paragraph:*

--The object of the present invention is to provide a handling unit for palletizing ~~in accordance with claim 1 having a flexible sliding panel that is driven along rails that have a horizontal section and a circular section.~~--

*Please delete the paragraph on page 1, beginning line 19, which begins with "The dependent claims define particularly advantageous preferred embodiments..."*

*Please replace the paragraph on page 4, beginning line 15, with the following amended paragraph:*

According to the present invention, the drive means are in the form of a gearmotor 18 (Figure 4A) rotating a first movable drive pinion 19 engaging a fixed first rack 20 carrying one of the two first circumferential sections of rail 5 and extending perimetraly about one of the two circular ~~elements~~ protective walls 6.

*Please replace the paragraph on page 4, beginning line 19, with the following amended paragraph:*

The first drive pinion 19 is keyed axially onto the end of a drive bar or shaft 21, on the opposite end of which there is keyed a second movable drive pinion 22 engaging a second fixed rack 23, parallel to the first rack 20, carrying the other first circumferential section of rail 5 and extending perimetraly about the other circular-element protective wall 6.